GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4151
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2007
BIO- FUEL PRODUCTION
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the potential and production target of bio-fuel from jatropha and molasses;

(b) whether the Government proposes to set up a regulatory authority to ensure focus and direction to this new sector to develop upto its potential; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (CHANDRA SHEKHAR SAHU)

(a) to (c) The Planning Commission`s Committee on Development of Bio-fuels (2003) estimated that the high-speed diesel (HSD) demand by the end of the XIth Plan (2011-12) would be 66.9 million metric tones (MMT), requiring 13.38 MMT of bio-diesel for achieving the target of 20% blending of bio- diesel with diesel. The Committee estimated that jatropha would have to be planted over 11.2 million hectares of land to achieve this 20% blending target, against which 32.29 million hectares o f wastelands including degraded forestlands is considered suitable for jatropha cultivation. In respect of ethanol, which i s essentially produced from molasses, the Committee projected that a 10% blending with petrol would be achievable with the current capacity of ethanol production in the country.

The Ministry of Rural Development has been identified as the nodal ministry for launching the National Mission on Bio- diesel, initially through a demonstration phase. Under the demonstration phase, it is proposed to cover 5 lakh hectares of public wastelands with jatropha plantations in different agro-climatic regions of the country, over a period of 5 years. Jatropha seed from these plantations is expected to yield about 6 lakh tonnes of bio-diesel. The demonstration phase i s proposed to be followed up by a self-sustaining expansion of the bio- diesel programme to meet the 20% blending target.